AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A portable computing device comprising:

a housing;

a display accessible on a panel of the housing;

a multi-directional input mechanism ~~consisting of navigational buttons~~ that includes one or more of a button feature, protruding pad, or protruding member; and

a processor coupled to the display and to the multi-directional input mechanism, the processor being configured to:

detect an input signaled from the multi-directional input mechanism corresponding to a menu request;

activate a first menu on the display in response to the menu request, the activated first menu displaying a menu bar and one or more menu items, wherein the menu bar corresponds to a portion of the first menu that provides an identifier of the first menu when the first menu is both active and inactive, and wherein when the first menu is active, each of the one or more menu items is associated with an action;

process navigation input signaled from the multi-directional input mechanism to navigate vertically from one of the one or more menu items in the active first menu to the portion of the active first menu that corresponds to the menu bar of the active first menu, so that the menu bar of the active first menu is selectable;

process selection input signaled from the multi-directional input mechanism for when the menu bar is selectable; and

cancel activation of the first menu from the display in response to (i) the menu bar of the first menu being selectable and (ii) the selection input for the menu bar being processed.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to execute an application that makes only the first menu available while a corresponding page of the application is being displayed on the display, and to process a lateral navigation input signaled from the multi-directional input mechanism while the first menu is active in order to cancel the first menu from being active.

4. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to process navigation input signaled from the multi-directional input mechanism to navigate laterally from the first menu to the second menu in order to make the second menu active instead of the first menu, and wherein the processor is configured to automatically make a menu bar of the second menu selectable in response to the second menu being activated by the lateral navigation input.

5. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 4, wherein the processor is configured to process navigation input signaled from the multi-directional input mechanism to cause the menu bar of the second menu item to be selectable immediately upon the second menu being made active in response to the lateral navigation input, and wherein the processor is configured to cancel activation of the second menu from the display in response to the menu bar of the second menu being selected by the selection input.

6. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to process the navigation input signaled from the multi-directional input mechanism to make the menu bar highlighted for selection by the selection input.

7. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to process navigation input signaled from the multi-directional input mechanism to navigate from one of the one or more menu items of the first menu to the menu bar in order to make the menu bar selectable.

Claims 8-9: CANCELED

10. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to navigate laterally from the first menu to a second menu in response to receiving lateral navigation input signaled from the multi-directional input mechanism, and to make the menu bar of the active second menu bar selectable upon navigating to the second menu.

11. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 10, wherein the processor is configured to process selection input when the menu bar of the second menu is made selectable in order to select that menu bar and cause cancellation of the second menu being active.

Claims 12-14: CANCELED

15. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the processor navigates to the menu bar by highlighting the menu bar.

16. CANCELED

17. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to perform an action in response to one of the menu items of the first menu being selected.

18. CANCELED

19. (Previously Presented) The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the multi-directional input mechanism is selected from a group of user-interactive features consisting of a joy stick, a joy pad, and a set of scroll buttons.

Claims 20-21: CANCELED

22. (Currently Amended) A portable computing device comprising:
a housing;
a display accessible on a panel of the housing;

a set of actuatable mechanisms ~~consisting of navigational buttons~~ provided on the housing, the set of actuatable mechanisms that include one or more of a button feature, protruding pad, or protruding member; and

a processor coupled to the display and to the plurality of actuatable mechanisms, the processor being configured to:

detect an input corresponding to a menu request;

in response to detecting the input corresponding to the menu request,

assign a menu function to each actuatable mechanism in the set of actuatable mechanisms; and

display one or more sets of menu items that are active in response to the menu request, each of the one or more sets of menu items being displayed as at least a portion of a menu having a menu bar and one or more menu items, wherein the menu bar corresponds to a portion of the menu that provides an identifier of the menu when the menu is both active and inactive, and wherein when the menu is active, each of the one or more menu items is associated with an action;

while the one or more sets of menu items for at least the portion of the menu are active, process input corresponding to actuation of any one of the actuatable mechanisms as the menu function assigned to the actuated mechanism, wherein the processor is configured to display the menu bar with each of the one or more sets of menu items in response to receiving the menu request, and wherein the processor is configured to cancel activation of the one or more sets of menu items in response to (i) navigation input to navigate vertically from one of the one or more menu items in the active menu to the menu bar in order to cause the portion of the menu corresponding to the menu bar to be in a selectable state, and (ii) selection input for selecting the menu bar from the selectable state.

Claims 23-44: CANCELED